Railway line in Orissa during the Eighth plan period;

(b) the amount allocated for 1992-93 annual plan; and

(c) the progress made in the construction of that line ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The estimated cost of the line is about Rs. 200.00 crores. The funds for construction of new lines are made available annually by the Planning Commission and funds are provided to individual projects accordingly.

(b) The information is available in the Budget papers circulated to you on 25-2-92.

(c) 25% upto 12/91.

Requirement of wagons during Eighth Plan

349. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment on the total requirement of wagons during Eighth Five Year Plan ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of wagons propose to be built during that period; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to meet the demand of wagons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The wagon requirement, both for replacement of overaged stock and for additional traffic anticipated, in the Five Year Plan (1992-97) has been assessed at about 1,50,000 wagons in terms of 4 wheeler units.

(c) The number would depend on the plan allocation in the Eighth Five Year Plan. Acquisition of about 27,500 wagons in 1992-93 has been programmed.

(d) A task force has been constituted to explore the feasibility of major rail users to contribute to the Railways' wagon pool by owning some wagons.

Privatisation of sectors of Indian Railways

350. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to privatise several sectors of Indian Railways for proper, efficient and profitable management;

(b) whether it is a fact that a high Powered Committee has been constituted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Railways transport is reserved for the public sector in the Industrial Policy of the Government announced on 24-7-1991. However, certain departmental catering establishments are proposed to be privatised.

(b) and (c) A Departmental Committee of Advisers has been constituted and the terms of reference of the Committee are:

(i) To indentify existing areas of activity which could be privatised, (ii) To suggest areas of new or additional activity that could be taken up in the private sector, (iii) while making its recommendations the Committee should give due consideration to the existing policies of the Government.

Diesel Engines for Rajdhani Express

351. SHRI JAGESH DESAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that two diesel engines are used from Bombay Central to Ratlam for Rajdhani Express.

(b) whether it is also a fact that electrification has been completed on whole of this route from Bombay Central to New Delhi (A.C. current from Bulsur to New Delhi and D.C. current from Bombay Central to Bulsor); and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to replace diesel engines by Electric Locomotives to save diesel consumption and thereby foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. (New Delhi to Virar-25 KV AC system & Virar to Bombay Central 1500 Volts DC system).

(c) Possibility of manufacture of an Electric Locomotive that can work Rajdhani train in DC electrified area also is being explored.